

Appln No. 10/773185
Amdt. Dated: November 03, 2006
Response to Office Action of August 10, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of August 10, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendments

In the Amendments:

independent claims 1, 19 and 38 are further amended to specify that the heater element is a suspended, cantilevered elongate strip, and that the second gap of the serpentine form is arranged at the free end of the cantilever. Support for these amendments can be found at page 47, line 11-page 48, line 11 and in Figs. 75 and 76 of the present application;

dependent claims 7 and 26 are cancelled accordingly; and

dependent claims 2-6, 8-18, 20-25, 27-37 and 39-54 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-discussed amended independent claims 1, 19 and 38, and claims 2-6, 8-18, 20-25, 27-37 and 39-54 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by any one or more of previously cited Silverbrook, Gerber, Hiramatsu, Lebens, Otsuka, Campbell, Anagnostopoulos and Moon in view of newly cited Lee et al. (US 6,460,961) and/or De Moor et al., for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 19 and 38, the heater element 10 is a cantilever having a free end which minimizes the amount of direct contact between the heater element and the nozzle, which, coupled with the claimed serpentine shape of the heater elements, provides a very efficient and reliable printhead (see page 12, line 19-page 13, line 25, page 19, line 25-page 20, line 23 and page 47, line 11-page 48, line 11 of the present specification).

On the other hand, none of Silverbrook, Gerber, Hiramatsu, Lebens, Otsuka, Campbell, Anagnostopoulos, Moon, Lee and DeMoor teach or suggest such an arrangement.

In particular, in the arrangement disclosed by Lee (used by the Examiner to purportedly teach the serpentine form of the claimed heater element) both ends of the heating element are connected to respective electrodes 130 and 160, which Lee discloses as being necessary so that either only the internal annulus or the entire heating element can be heated (see col. 4, lines 48-61).

Thus, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to have the end of the heating element of Lee at which the "second gap" is located arranged as the free end of a cantilever. Therefore, no combination of Lee, and the other cited references (in particular Lebens, which is cited by the Examiner to purportedly teach a cantilevered heater) would result in the arrangement of amended independent claims 1, 19 and 38, and therefore claims 2-6, 8-18, 20-25, 27-37 and 39-54 dependent therefrom.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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